

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 00856 240907Z

14

ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 DPW-01 OMB-01 SR-02 ORM-03 AID-20 DRC-01

/158 W

----- 072168

R 240800Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3021

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ISLAMABAD 0856

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, PFOR, PK, IN, BG

SUBJ: EXCHANGE OF BENGALEES, NON-BENGALEES AND PAK POW'S

REF: ISLAMABAD 0457, DACCA 0214

SUMMARY: ICRC DELEGATE ISLAMABAD SAYS RATE OF POW RETURN IS REVERTING TO EARLIER LEVEL AFTER SPEED-UP TO OVERCOME EFFECTS OF INDIAN RAIL STRIKE. UNHCR AIRLIFT APPEARS BE PROCEEDING SMOOTHLY BUT ICRC CONCERNED THAT DWINDLING NUMBER OF CLEARED NON-BENGALEES WILL PUT OPERATION OUT OF BALANCE. FAILURE TO COME UP WITH AGREED DEFINITION OF HARDSHIP CATEGORY ALSO POTENTIAL OBSTACLE. END SUMMARY.

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON ICRC DELEGATE ISLER JANUARY 21 TO DISCUSS PROGRESS IN THREE-WAY EXCHANGE OF PERSONS UNDER SIMLA AGREEMENT, ESPECIALLY SITUATION AS REGARDS NON-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 ISLAMA 00856 240907Z

BENGALEES. ACCORDING ISLER, TOTALS MOVED UP TO

JANUARY 14 INCLUDE 48,700 POW'S 37,700 NON-BENGALEES, AND 81,400 BENGALEES.

2. INDIANS HAD BEEN REPATRIATING POW'S AT RATE OF ONE TRAINLOAD PER DAY UNTIL JANUARY 16 TO MAKE UP FOR TIME LOST DURING DECEMBER RAILWAY STRIKE, ISLER SAID, BUT RATE SEEMS TO HAVE DROPPED OFF SINCE THEM. HE THOUGHT INDIANS WOULD REVERT TO OLD SCHEDULE OF ONE TRAIN EVERY OTHER DAY NOW THAT BACKLOG HAD BEEN ELIMINATED AS MEANS OF PRESURING PAKS INTO QUICKER ACTION ON NON-BENGALEE CLEARANCES.

3. QUERIED ABOUT FIGURE OF 400,000 NON-BENGALEE APPLICANTS CITED IN PARA 4 DACCA REFTEL, ISLER EXPLAINED IT AS FOLLOWS: SINCE MAY 1972 ICRC HAD RECEIVED AND PASSED ON TO GOP TOTAL OF 62,000 APPLICATIONS COVERING 396,000 PERSONS. PAKS HAVE ALREADY REJECTED MORE THAN TWO-THIRDS OF THEM, HOWEVER, WHILE ALMOST 24,000 APPLICATIONS INVOLVING 163,000 PEOPLE ARE STILL PENDING WITH GOP. MAJORITY OF REJECTS WERE IN SECOND CATEGORY, I.E., FORMER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, BECAUSE MANY THOUSAND APPLICATIONS WERE RECEIVED FROM PERSONS WHO WERE EMPLOYEES OF FORMER EAST PAK PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT (MAINLY RAILROAD EMPLOYEES) RATHER THAN CENTRAL GOVERNMENT. BREAKDOWN OF THESE APPLICATIONS HAS BEEN AS FOLLOWS, ACCORDING ISLER:

	RECEIVED	CLEARED	REJECTED	PENDING
	-----	-----	-----	-----

A. TOTAL APPLICANTS:	396,490	55,380	177,703	163,407
----------------------	---------	--------	---------	---------

B. FIRST CATEGORY				
(DOMICILE)	24,929	16,053	5,241	3,635

C. SECOND CATEGORY				
(GOVERNMENT				
EMPLOYEES)	235,613	20,024	118,494	97,095

D. THIRD CATEGORY				
(FAMILY)	135,948	19,303	53,968	62,677

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 ISLAMA 00856 240907Z

4. ISLER DISPUTED GOP CLAIM THAT BACKLOG OF 17,000 CLEARED APPLICANTS IN DACCA RELIEVES PAKS OF ANY RESPONSIBILITY FOR SLOW MOVEMENT OF NON-BANGALEES. HE CLAIMED THAT OF THOSE CLEARED BY GOP 11,000 APPEAR TO BE UNTRACEABLE BY BDG AND 4,000 ARE DUPLICATES, SO ACTUAL BACKLOG OF ACTIVE CASES IS LESS THAN 3,000. AT RATE OF PRESENT TRANSFER THIS NUMBER WILL BE USED UP IN FEW WEEKS. ISLER FORESAW REAL DANGER OF REPATRIATION PROCESS

GETTING OUT OF BALANCE UNLESS GOP HASTENS NON-BANGALEE CLEARANCES TO MATCH NUMBER OF BANGALEES BEING FERRIED. DESPITE LARGE NUMBER OF NON-BENGALEE APPLICATIONS STILL PENDING, HE THOUGHT THAT 70 TO 75,000 WAS REASONABLE ESTIMATE OF THE TOTAL WHO WILL QUALIFY WITHIN ALL FOUR CATEGORIES, ALTHOUGH IT COULD GO AS HIGH AS 90,000.

5. ISLER CONFIRMED THAT ANOTHER POTENTIAL STUMBLING BLOCK IN REPATRIATION PROCESS WAS SELECTION OF APPLICANTS IN FOURTH (HARDSHIP) CATEGORY. IT IS APPARENT THAT BOTH SIDES MUST AGREE ON THE CRITERIA. ISLER SAID GOP HAD IN MIND TO USE AT LEAST PART OF THIS CATEGORY FOR MEMBERS OF FORMER EAST PAKISTAN CIVIL ARMED FORCES (EPCAF) AND THEIR FAMILIES (ESTIMATED TO BE ABOUT 25,000) BECAUSE OF THEIR DEMONSTRATED LOYALTY TO PAKISTAN IN 1971. MOST OF THEM WERE EITHER CAPTURED BY INDIANS AND PLACED IN POW CAMPS OR ELSE WERE JAILED BY BANGLADESH AUTHORITIES. ACCORDING TO ISLER, APPROXIMATELY 600 OF THOSE DETAINED IN INDIA WERE SENT BACK TO BANGLADESH IN NOVEMBER. RED CROSS, HOWEVER, TENTATIVELY WAS OF OPINION THAT THEY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED PRISONERS OF WAR AND REPATRIATED TO PAKISTAN. ALTHOUGH RED CROSS HAS ALREADY REGISTERED 16,000 EPCAF MEMBERS AND DEPENDENTS, SO FAR BDG HAS NOT GIVEN PERMISSION FOR THEM TO BE CONSIDERED UNDER HARDSHIP CATEGORY. BDG-GOP FAILURE TO COME TO SOME SORT OF UNDERSTANDING ON DEFINITION OF HARDSHIP CATEGORY SOON WILL ADD TO PROBLEM OF FINDING SUFFICIENT BODIES TO JUSTIFY UN AIRLIFT.

6. AT PRESENT, ACCORDING ISLER, AIRLIFT CAPACITY CONTINUES AT APPROXIMATELY THE PREVIOUS RATE AND THE PLANES GENERALLY RUN FULLY LOADED BOTH WAYS. CURRENTLY OPERATING IS ONE ARIANA PLANE MAKING TWO FLIGHTS A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 ISLAMA 00856 240907Z

DAY (WITH AN ATTEMPT AT A THIRD FLIGHT EVERY SECOND DAY); 2 RAF PLANES MAKING ONE FLIGHT A DAY; AND 1 ILLUSHIN-18 MAKING ONE FLIGHT A DAY FROM JANUARY 21. THE RUSSIAN SHIP PLYING BETWEEN KARACHI AND BANGLADESH MAY BE ON ITS LAST TRIP ALTHOUGH IT COULD MAKE ONE LAST RETURN VOYAGE TO PICK UP ONE TON OF LUGGAGE FROM KARACHI PORT, ISLER SAID. BYROADE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** REPATRIATION, REFUGEES, POW RETURN, RAIL TRANSPORTATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** morefirh  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974ISLAMA00856  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** ISLAMABAD  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19740119/aaaaarpg.tel  
**Line Count:** 161  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** ISLAMABAD 0457, Dacca 0214  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** morefirh  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 JUN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <26 JUN 2002 by morefirh>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** EXCHANGE OF BENGALLEES, NON-BENGALLEES AND PAK POW'S  
**TAGS:** SREF, PFOR, PK, IN, BG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005